

News Release
For Immediate Release

President Bush signs disaster declaration for first eight Indiana counties

INDIANAPOLIS (June 11, 2008) - Governor Mitch Daniels received word tonight that President George W. Bush has approved the first eight counties for federal assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses in central and south central Indiana damaged by severe weather that began May 30.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Bartholomew, Hancock, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. Damage assessments for other counties are continuing and are being submitted to the federal government as they are completed.

“Now, that’s fast action. I hope it is indicative of how fast the rest of this process can move,” said Daniels. “We’ve had excellent cooperation with FEMA so far.”

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

In addition to these first approvals, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has decided to consider the weather events that began with tornadoes and severe storms on May 30 and continuing through heavy rains and flooding on June 7 as one weather event. That means more Hoosiers are likely to receive help.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in these counties can begin applying for assistance now by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov/> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Please note that the toll-free telephone numbers will operate from **8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) seven days a week.**

On Thursday, the state will provide information about the establishment of on-site locations for FEMA application assistance and help with state services and when those sites are projected to open.

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